

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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PERMDEL UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, US

SUBJECT:US POSITION PAPER ON ADDITION OF ARABIC TO WORKING
LANGUAGES OF IOC (IOC-IX AGENDA ITEM 13)

REF.: PARIS 27173

1. UNITED STATES POSITION: THE US DELEGATION MAY SUPPORT
THE USE OF ARABIC AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE CONDITION THAT THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE CAUSED BY SUCH
USE BE BORNE BY THE COUNTRIES USING IT.

2. BACKGROUND: THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTED THE ADOPTION
OF ARABIC AS AN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1973 AND OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE
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BOARD IN 1974. IN THE CASE OF THE UNGA, OUR SUPPORT TOOK

CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT THE ARAB STATES AGREED TO DEFRAID THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, WHILE WE STROVE FOR A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT IN THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE ADDED EXPENSE WAS CHARGED TO THE UNESCO BUDGET.

3. THE ADOPTION OF ARABIC AS A WORKING LANGUAGE FOR 1975-76 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS RESULTED IN AN EXPENDITURE OF 584,000 DOLLARS FOR LANGUAGE SERVICES OR APPROXIMATELY 3,000 DOLLARS PER DAY. THE COSTS OF PROVIDING ARABIC

LANGUAGES SERVICES IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXCEEDS THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF ALL THE ARAB STATES COMBINED AND IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS SITUATION EXISTS IN UNESCO ALSO ALTHOUGH EXACT FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE. IN EFFECT, THE ARAB STATES ARE NOT CONTRIBUTING ANYTHING TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES BUT ARE HAVING THEIR MEMBERSHIP SUBSIDIZED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS.

4. THE COSTS, PER BIENNIUM, FOR PROVIDING ARABIC LANGUAGE SERVICES TO THE IOC ARE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 70,000 DOLLARS.

5. THE US DELEGATION SHOULD, IN ITS PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, STRESS THE HIGH COSTS INVOLVED, UNESCO'S LIMITED RESOURCES AND THE IMPLICATION THAT THE ADOPTION OF ARABIC AS A WORKING LANGUAGE AT UNESCO'S EXPENSE MAY CURTAIL THE IOC'S PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

6. IN ADDITION, THE ADOPTION OF ARABIC AS A WORKING LANGUAGE IN THE IOC WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INTERPRETATION AND DOCUMENT TRANSLATION AND REPRODUCTION FACILITIES AND THE EFFORT OF HANDLING ANOTHER SET OF CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN DELAYS IN DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND DECREASED CONFERENCE EFFECTIVENESS.

7. DRAFTED: IO/UNESCO:ABCORTE:JU 10/17/75; CONCURRENTS: IO/UNESCO-RCHEATER, IO/UN/BAPS-JSAULS, NEA/RSEARING. INGERSOLL

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